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WIVENHOE URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SURVEYOR and PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
LIBRARY
13 FEB 1968

1965.

1. Dr. Didsbury C.407
2. Mr. Morley Parry l. pl A.419
3. Mr. Perry l. pl. A.405

Rebow Chambers,
Colchester.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1965.

On behalf of my predecessor I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support of members of the Council and for the co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

S. MACMILLAN

Medical Officer of Health.

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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health - E.A. HARGREAVES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., - died December 1965. (Time shared with two neighbouring Authorities, and the County Council).

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor. - D.F. SWEETING, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor. - M.C. Walker, A.R.S.H.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health Committee - Chairman Councillor W.J. Cracknell.

Highways and Waterworks Committee - Chairman Councillor E.E.J. Westlake.

Housing Committee - Chairman Councillor G.J. James.

Finance Committee - Chairman Councillor L.W. Kemble.

Public Hall Committee - Chairman Councillor Miss B.A. Grasby.

Chairman of Council - Councillor T.M. Endean.

Clerk to the Council - W. Trickett A.C.C.S.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	1,493
Registrar General's estimate of resident population 1964	3,630
1965	3,830
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1965) according to Rate Book ..	1,362
Rateable Value	£87,735
Sum represented by a penny rate	£346.

The district is situated on the east bank of the River Colne where its waters are tidal. It is about four miles down the river from Colchester, and it is also on the main line from London to Clacton-on-Sea. Local industries are shipbuilding, general engineering, agriculture, canning and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre. Half the working population find their employment outside the district.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		M	F	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS	all	49	41	90
	Legitimate	47	40	87
	Illegitimate	2	1	3

Illegitimate live births as % of total live births 3.3%

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	23.5
Comparability factor	1.02
Corrected rate	23.96
England and Wales	18.00

	M	F	TOTAL
STILL-BIRTHS Legitimate	3	2	5

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	43.4
Total births	92

INFANTS DEATHS

Under 1 Year All (Legitimate) - 1 male. (Illegitimate) - 1 Female	2
Under 4 weeks All (Legitimate - 1 male. Illegitimate - 1 Female)	2
In first week All (Legitimate - 1 male. Illegitimate - 1 Female)	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22.2
Legitimate infants deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.0
Infant mortality England and Wales	19.0
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22.2
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 related births	22.2
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births plus deaths during first week per 1,000 total live and still-births)	42
Maternal deaths	0
Maternal mortality rate	0
Total deaths M - 18 F - 15 TOTAL - 33	
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	8.6
Comparability factor	1.1
Corrected death rate	9.5
England and Wales	11.5

Deaths in various age groups (local statistics).

Under 4 weeks	2		
4 weeks - 1 year	0	35 - 45 years	0
1 - 5 years	0	45 - 55 years	3
5 - 15 years	0	55 - 65 years	7
15 - 25 years	1	65 - 75 years	7
25 - 35 years	0	75 and over	13

Causes of Death	M	F	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, Other	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm breast	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	0	1
Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	5	9
Coronary disease, angina	3	3	6
Other heart disease	1	2	3
Other circulatory disease	0	1	1
Influenza	1	0	1
All other accidents	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	0	3
Accidents - Motor Vehicle	1	0	1
All causes -	17	15	32

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948/51

No action under this Act was necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of infectious disease were notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, when a bacteriological analysis is required, and to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., when a chemical or complete analysis is required.

Samples of food and ice cream etc., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilties.

Non-emergency calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for ambulance.

I f there is a dialling system in operation, dial "999" "0" or "01" and ask for ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Ante-Natal and post-natal clinics.
Maternity and child welfare services.
Nursing in the home.
Mental Welfare.
Vaccination and immunisation against diptheria and whooping cough.
Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.
School Health Service.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester at 2.30 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the St. John's Ambulance (Wivenhoe) Headquarters on first and third Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester. Telephone Colchester 6251 Extension 3.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mains Water Supply. Again supplies have proved adequate both in quantity and quality, the general slowing down of building and the poor summer making the demand less than expected. In November the Essex County Council prescribed to all Local Planning Authorities in the North-East Essex area a quota for new applications where outline consent was not already given. the Wivenhoe quota being 12 dwellings per year, as the County were of the opinion that unrestricted development would out-strip the water resources.

The Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company submitted a plan for a low level storage tank of 60,000 gallons capacity, which was conditionally approved by the Council. Work has not commenced on this scheme. New mains to supply the University of Essex have been laid and as these pass houses with private well supplies, some of which are suspect, it is hoped that these houses will soon be connected to the mains supply.

Sewer and Sewerage. Excellent progress, well ahead of schedule, in the laying of the sewer from Wivenhoe to Colchester was severely halted in a 200' section at the eastern end of De Vere Lane. Very bad soil conditions were encountered during the tunnelling operations and soil stabilisation had to be carried out by the injection of cement grout. The Wivenhoe Sewer came into operation on 1st September, when all the sewage from the dwellings along and to the north of Belle Vue Road and North of De Vere Lane was treated by the Haven Works, Colchester. This relieved by approximately two thirds the flow to the Council's existing sewage works. Unfortunately, even with the reduced loading at the works, the effluent has still been poor.

Public Cleansing. Despite the usual labour difficulties, the Council extended their weekly collection service, previously carried out in the built up area, to the outlying parts of the District, and all properties now receive a weekly collection. With the increase of pre-packed goods and the greater use of oil, gas and electric central heating, a number of dwellings are using two refuse bins, as they can no longer dispose of some of their refuse on their solid fuel boiler as before. Again more man hours have been required, and by the end of the year three men full time and one man two days per week were employed on refuse collection compared with two full time and one man one day per week last year. The Council decided to improve their system of refuse disposal and will operate the controlled tipping method as soon as a mechanical shovel can be obtained. Tenders for the supply of a shovel have been invited.

A little over six tons of paper salvage was baled and sold to the Thames Board Mills Limited.

Petroleum Storage - Moveable Dwellings and House Boats. There was one addition to the premises licensed for petroleum storage this year - the other licenses remained unchanged.

Council House Maintenance. Further improvements to the 1919 houses in Rectory Road have been completed. This entailed the provision of a standard 5'6" bath to replace the old and well worn 5' bath, and where not already installed a wash-hand basin was provided in the bathroom, both being linked to the existing hot water system.

Sixteen more garages were erected at the end of Rosabelle Avenue, bringing the total number of garages on this site to 40. There is still a waiting list for garages and many cars are left on the roadside within the Council Estate.

An extension to the existing central heating system at the Flatlets, Britannia Court, was the fitting of a small radiator in all the bathrooms. All night emergency lighting has also been installed in the corridors at Britannia Court.

A maintenance workshop has been built adjoining Britannia Court, which will enable better working conditions for the maintenance tradesmen, and more stores to be kept under better conditions.

The external painting of houses after last years contract labour difficulties has been carried out by augmented direct labour and 28 dwellings were redecorated.

Housing. Again there was a drop in the rate of building, only 49 dwellings were erected compared with 76 last year. Over half of those erected were on the Broomfield Estate, where 169 houses of the original application are now completed. Another estate - Queens Road (Stage I) has houses now coming into occupation. Further approvals for estate development have been given at Wivenhoe Wood (49 dwellings), Broome Grove (24 houses) and Queens Road Stages II and III (82 dwellings conditional upon sewage arrangements).

As required by Circular 21/65 the Council agreed on a four year housing programme, and to erect six dwellings per year. The Town & Country Planning Act application for eight flats outstanding from last year was refused by the Essex County Council, but a revised scheme for six flats was approved, which at the end of the year was awaiting loan consent.

One dwelling, Toll Gate House, Rowhedge Ferry Road was demolished and two houses, 4 and 6, Queens Road were closed.

Approval was given to eight applications for Standard Grants, and one application was refused. £366 was paid to owners of three properties for works completed, this is a slight drop in the number of applications from last year. Once again the majority of applications have been from owner/occupiers.

New Buildings. 215 plans for new buildings or alterations were deposited and approved, an increase on the number received last year.

At the University of Essex work is in progress building a house for the Vice-Chancellor, and a building for the Department of Physics in the Valley area.

Roads. Negotiations have commenced with the Essex County Council for a joint action in altering the existing island at the Station Road/West Street junction to form a suitable roundabout.

The roads on the Vine Farm Estate have been adopted by the Council. The Council assisted in the laying of a temporary footpath on the south side of the unadopted section of Queens Road, by the provision and laying of a railway sleeper kerb. The recently formed Queens Road Resident's Association laid concrete between the sleepers and the boundary to the properties. Dwellings in Paget Road, both sections north and south of the railway line, have been numbered. Five concrete signs have been erected as the first stage in the marking of all the public footpaths in the District. Wooden barrier posts have been erected at each end of Smiths Road to prohibit unauthorised parking and use of the site, which became detrimental to both the safety and the amenity of the area.

Approval has been received from the Essex County Council for the construction of a car park in the south-east corner of the Playing Fields.

At all road junctions along Colchester Road, The Avenue, Belle Vue Road and Rectory Road the street lighting has been improved by the fitting of 80 M.B.F.U. lamps. The street lighting has also been extended northwards along the Colchester Road from Elmstead Road to the boundary between the Urban District and Colchester Borough, so lighting the whole of the road from the University to Wivenhoe.

Food. I regret that it has been impossible to carry out routine inspections of food premises, and visits have been confined to particulars requests by shop keepers or their customers. The following food was surrendered to and disposed by the Council during the year:-

8lb pork luncheon meat - rusty tins and perforation around the exhaust hole; 14½lbs pastry; 6lbs fruit; 8½ lbs meat; 6 pts mousse; 16¾lbs fish; 10 lbs vegetables; 4¼lbs meat pies, and three dinners - packets of frozen food which had become thawed out and

contaminated due to a breakdown of the refrigerated storage cabinet on two separate occasions.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. There has been a marked decrease in the number of rodent incidents during the year. An unusual number of wasps nests were reported - 16 nests were destroyed, and arrangements were made for the collection of two swarms of bees which were adversely affecting house-holders.

Properties inspected	25
Major Infestation (common rat) found	1
Minor Infestation (common rat) found	24
Ship rat infestation found	-
Mice infestation found	2
Infested properties treated	25
Block control treatments	-
Notices served under Section 4	-

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. A further four retail shops have been registered, in which a total of nine persons are stated to be employed. The total premises registered at the end of the year was six offices and fifteen shops, and these employed a total of 187 persons. Twelve inspections were made of premises under this Act.

Analysis of Inspections.

Public Health Act	373	Playing Fields	89
Housing Act	133	Cemetery	65
Water	8	Churchyard	47
Council House Maintenance	856	Roads	635
New Buildings	1,075	Salvage	21
Sewers	334	Allotments	14
Drain Tests	232	Miscellaneous	96
Refuse	133	Houseboats	6
Street Cleansing	43	Town & Country Planning Acts	200
Street Lighting	179	Food Premises	18
Moveable dwellings	11	Quay Shelter and Seats	18
Town Ditch	19	Housing applications	4
Private Street Works	52	Petroleum Acts	11
Factories	12	Highways Act.	106
Pest Act	26	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	12
		Public Conveniences	33

Notices served.

Public Health Act (formal)	Served	1
" " "	Abated	1
" " (informal)	served	26
" " "	abated	26
Housing Act (formal)	served	2
" " "	abated	3

Factories Act 1937-59 Routine inspections have been made during the year as follows -

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
1. Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	-
2. Factories not included in 1, in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	9	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworks premises)	4	NIL	-

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